

GREATER ACTIVITY

Induced by a Brighter Outlook in the
Trade—The Cause of the Phenomenon
Improvement—Confidence in the Per-
manency of Present Prices—Notes.

activity in the iron trade has imparted great deal of confidence to manufacturing interests in every direction. The upward tendency in prices has brought out a good

Within a few days merchant iron has advanced \$2 per ton. Construction iron is in more active demand and firmer. Nails have declined 10 cents per keg. Crucible iron has advanced from 50 cents to \$1.00 per ton, and heavy orders are being placed sooner than usual. Scarcity is apparent.

and Southern furnace managers are looking for a brisk demand during the last quarter of the year.

***WHAT CAUSED THE IMPROVEMENT.**

The reason for the improvement is that rail buyers began four months ago to buy heavily. This created a demand for pig-

unusual demand for ore. Ore has advanced and is new light in supply. The demand for Bessemer was followed by an active demand for forge and this in turn has affected finished iron. Inquiries are now the market for between forty and fifty thousand tons of structural and plate iron for bridge and building purposes and fifty or sixty thousand tons of steel rail. Besides this there is a general inquiry for building material, though less active.

Boot and shoe manufacturers here and in Massachusetts have booked several large orders within a few days, and a very active winter is now assured. The demand for leather has not yet set in, but the highest range of prices for two years are assured for the winter. Hides are a active demand.

BOOM IN LOCOMOTIVE BUILDING.

Orders for 150 locomotives have been placed since December 1, and orders for about 200 will be placed during January.

ing their estimated orders for between four and five thousand cars to be placed during January, besides fair orders for car wheels and a variety of railway material.

Extensive preparations for increased production in textile mills have been completed, and under the higher range of prices now prevailing a heavier demand for staple products is assured. Heavy orders for carpeting are already received, besides inquiries for cloth for summer shipments. Hosiery mills will resume full time in January. Manufacturers of textile ma-

Arrivals of lumber during the past six days have been unexpectedly large. Builders in New York and Philadelphia

lock, white and yellow pine, besides taking orders for walnut and cherry.

The anthracite companies are preparing for a restricted output during the first quarter of the year, in order to preserve the highest possible range of prices. The bituminous operators have closed contracts and have the promises for large shipments during the winter and expect to close more contracts during January for much larger shipments than were made last winter.

financial accommodations on ordinary commercial paper.

British Grain Trade.

London, Dec. 28.—The *Mark Lane Express*, in its review of the British grain trade during the past week says: The weather has been cold, damp and foggy. The growing crops are healthy. The principal feature of the wheat market is the ability of holders of English wheat to un-

WHEAT was doing the week were 61,290 quarters at 30s 2d against 59,792 quarters at 31s 5d during the corresponding week last year. Trade in foreign wheat is confined to the interest retail transactions. Stocks are heavy. American flour cheaper. There is no feature in the cargo market. Eight cargoes arrived; two cargoes were sold, both of them Californian ones sold at 35s 3d and the other at a secret price. Two cargoes were withdrawn and two remained.

Impious Pictures.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—The authorities of Austria and Hungary seem fully determined to punish M. Verschwenda, the

ing his alleged impious pictures, entitled "The Resurrection," and "The Holy Family." In these compositions Christ is depicted as a merely human and historical person. They are very realistic, and their intent is to show that Christ accomplished his miracles by trickery and without superhuman power. The pictures have been multiplied by photography and are scattered broadcast through the Austrian and Hungarian capitals. They have terribly shocked the church dignitaries and an explanatory mass has been

na. The Imperial Government at Vienna has taken up the question, and as a test case has ordered the prosecution of the Russian artist's Vienna agent for selling photographic copies of the objectionable pictures.

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Precautionary Measures.

DUBLIN, Dec. 23.—The Irish Times published a dispatch from London to-day stating that the police have been ordered to resume the precautionary measures adopted during the dynamite "scare" under the Liberal Government, owing to the

of the alleged Home Rule manifesto of Mr. Gladstone. P. Sweeney, member-elect of Parliament for East Kerry, had advised the tenantry of Killarney not to pay rents to the landlords because an Irish Parliament will allot the land to them free, and will not compensate the landlords.

Re-Elected President of France.
PARIS, Dec. 28.—M. FRANCIS JULES P. GRY was re-elected President of the French Republic to-day in the joint vote of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies.

Russia and Austria Arming.
LONDON, Dec. 28.—It is stated here that Russia and Austria are secretly arming and that both these countries have sent orders to England for large quantities of stores for their respective armies.